



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Tuesday, October 13, 2015

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Medicare Open Enrollment Starts This Week

Beneficiaries can make changes to their plan from October 15 to December 7

Las Vegas, NV — Medicare beneficiaries across the country have the opportunity to make changes to their coverage during the annual Open Enrollment period, which starts Thursday, Oct. 15, and runs through Dec. 7. As individual health needs change and as health care insurance providers may change their benefits and costs each year, it is important for beneficiaries to review their Medicare choices each fall during the annual open enrollment period.

“Open Enrollment is the one time of year when *all* people with Medicare can see what new benefits Medicare has to offer and make changes to their coverage,” said Wanda Brown, statewide program director for the Nevada State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). “It is well worth your time to review and compare plans. The good news is that local help is available.”

Nevada SHIP assists Medicare beneficiaries navigate these changes. At no cost to beneficiaries, SHIP’s certified counselors and volunteers can help with:

- Comparing health care plans using the Medicare.gov website.
- Filing disputes or questions regarding summary notices received from Medicare.
- Applying for programs that help those with limited income pay for their prescription medication costs.
- Reviewing individuals’ current Medicare coverage to make sure it meets their needs.

Nevada SHIP can be accessed online at <http://www.NevadaSHIP.com> or to schedule an appointment for one-on-one help from a local Nevada SHIP representative, call:

- Northern Nevada – 877-385-2345
- Southern Nevada – 800-307-4444

“Take advantage of this important opportunity to compare your current plan to new options and see if you can lower some costs or find a plan that better suits your needs,” Thomas advised.

Additional Medicare help available:

- Visit [Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](https://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-plan) to compare your current coverage with all of the options that are available in your area, and enroll in a new plan if you decide to make a change.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) 24-hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Review the “Medicare & You 2016” handbook. It is mailed to people with Medicare in September and is available online at [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).

Nevada SHIP
Local Help for People with Medicare!

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